

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

HA-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 XMB-02 EB-08

COME-00 FRB-03 /105 W

-----001931 081854Z /44

P R 081230Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2052

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, BL

SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE STANCE TOWARD BOLIVIA-NEAR
TERM

REF: LA PAZ 6301 (NOTAL)

1. REFTTEL OUTLINED THE COURSE AND POLICIES ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT PEREDA ON 6 AUG 78. THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY HAS REAFFIRMED ITS DESIRE TO MOVE THE COUNTRY TOWARD DEMOCRACY. FURTHER, IT HAS INVITED THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS AND HAS STATED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE RESPECTED AND PROTECTED.

2. I BELIEVE THAT IN THE NEAR TERM, WHILE WE OBSERVE AND EVALUATE THE ACTIONS OF THE PEREDA GOVERNMENT, OUR INTERESTS CAN BEST BE PURSUED NOW BY USING SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US AS A POSITIVE INCENTIVE TO ENCOURAGE THE MILITARY TO FOLLOW ITS ANNOUNCED COURSE. (WHEN MADE KNOWN TO THE GOB, THE EARLIER DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE FY 1978 FMSCR OFFER OF \$14 MILLIONS WILL CLEARLY SIGNAL OUR DISTASTE FOR THE POLITICAL EVENTS WHICH BROUGHT GEN PEREDA TO THE BOLIVIAN PRESIDENCY.)

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3. ACCORDINGLY, I RECOMMEND WE PROCEED AS FOLLOWS:

A. EXECUTE ALL REMAINING PORTIONS OF THE FY 1978 IMET PROGRAM. ANY REDUCTION IN THE PROGRAM WILL BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO OUR INTERESTS. CANCELLATION WILL DEPRIVE BOLIVIAN MILITARY JUNIOR OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE EXPOSED TO US TRAINING AND WILL BE PERCEIVED AS AN UNNECESSARY AND ABRASIVE IRRITANT. (NOTE THAT DUE TO THE PROXIMITY OF THE

PROGRAMMED TRAINING-4TH QTR FY 1978- THE BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES AND INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS ARE AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF ALL REMAINING TRAINING.)

B. COORDINATE WITH EXIM BANK TO DETERMINE THE BANK'S ABILITY TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE MILITARY HOSPITAL (\$6 MILLION ESTIMATED) WHICH HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE FY 1978 CREDIT PACKAGE.

C. ENSURE THAT THE FY 1979 FMSCR OF \$6 MILLION REQUESTED IN THE CPD REMAINS INTACT.

D. ESTABLISH FMSCR FOR FY 1980 AT \$14 MILLION. SINCE THE FIGURES WILL BECOME KNOWN TO THE BOLIVIANS WHEN THE FY 1980 CPD IS PRESENTED TO CONGRESS (APPROX JAN 79), SUCH ACTION WILL PROVIDE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY AS IT MOVES THE COUNTRY TOWARD AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT. THE CREDITS COULD EASILY BE WITHDRAWN SHOULD THE MILITARY DEVIATE FROM THEIR STATE OBJECTIVE AND POLICIES. BUT THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS OF BOLIVIA'S SECOND DEMOCRATIZATIO EFFORT SHOULD BE BETTER THAN THE FIRST. ESSENTIALLY, WE WOULD BE ATTEMPTING TO OFFER AN APPEALING INCENTIVE WHICH, AT THE SAME TIME, WOULD PROVIDE US A STICK TO USE SHOULD FUTURE EVENTS SO WARRANT.

BOEKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAPAZ06310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780324-0681
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780888/aaaacvvy.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 21290467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LA PAZ 6301
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1807117
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY ASSISTANCE STANCE TOWARD BOLIVIA-NEAR TERM
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, BL, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/21290467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014